

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02803 210447Z

43

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TAGS: ELAB, IT

SUBJ: COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER CALLS FOR MODERATION

REF: ROME'S 2488

1. IN AN AUDACIOUS EXTENSION OF THE MODERATE LINE WHICH THE COMMUNIST-COMINATED LABOR FEDERATION CGIL HAS BEEN PURSUING FOR SOME TIME, CGIL SECRETARY RINALDO SCHEDA (COMMUNIST) HAS CALLED FOR MODERATION ON THE PART OF LABOR AS THE NEW MORO GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. WRITING IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGICAL WEEKLY RINASCITA, SCHEDA WELCOMES THE FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, "EVEN THOUGH ITS LIFE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED TO EXTEND THROUGH THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE TERM, AND THE ONE-PARTY FORMULA IS INADEQUATE FOR TRULY CONFRONTING THE PROBLEMS." STILL, IT IS NOT THE FORMULA BUT THE QUALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR LABOR'S ASSESSMENT OF IT, HE WRITES.

2. SCHEDA POINTS OUT THAT THE UNIONS HAVE ACTED ONLY ONCE BEFORE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FORMULA: IN 1960, WHEN

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PAGE 02 ROME 02803 210447Z

SOME ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO INCLUDE THE NEO-FASCIST MSI IN THE

GOVERNMENTAL COALITION. "BUT GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE ESTABLISHED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE POLITICAL FORCES WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC ARE OUGHT TO BE JUDGED BY THE UNIONS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR CONCRETE ACTIONS," HE STATES. WHILE CONCEDED VARIOUS WEAKNESS IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTAL FORMULA, SCHEDA WARNS THAT "THIS DOES NOT LEAD TO THE NEED TO DRIVE THIS GOVERNMENT OUT OF POWER, FOR THEN NO ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS WERE UNIFIED IN THE OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING EARLY ELECTIONS."

3. SCHEDA POINTS OUT THAT, BY INCLUDING THE THREE MAJOR UNRESOLVED CONTRACTS FROM 1975 (METALS, CHEMICALS AND CONSTRUCTION), CONTRACT RENEWALS INVOLVING 10 AND ONE-HALF MILLION WORKERS ARE DUE IN 1976. IN THE PRESENT GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION, WHILE REJECTING ANY GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO ABRIDGE LABOR'S AUTONOMY IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS, SCHEDA CALLS FOR A THOROUGH "EVALUATION" OF THE POSSIBILITY OF STRETCHING OUT CONTRACTS (TO THREE YEARS FROM THE CURRENT USUAL TWO YEARS), AND THE STAGGERING OF CONTRACT EXPIRATION DATES "TO AVOID THE CURRENT DENSITY OF NEGOTIATIONS" IN BRIEF PERIODS OF TIME. FURTHER, SCHEDA WRITES THAT "THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF LABOR IS, AND MUST REMAIN EVEN MORE THAN YESTERDAY, THE STRUGGLE FOR JOBS." HE THUS CALLS FOR A CENTRALIZATION OF THE BARGAINING PROCESS, WITH WAGE INCREASES SUBLIMATED TO JOB EXPANSION. LEST INDIVIDUAL UNIONS "BE CAUGHT UP IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR OWN CONTRACTUAL INTERESTS" TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE SOLUTION OF MORE GENERAL PROBLEMS.

4. COMMENT. SCHEDA IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS REPRESENTING MOST CONSISTENTLY THE ORTHODOX PCI LINE IN THE CGIL. HIS CALL FOR MODERATION, AND, IN EFFECT, A FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEW MORO GOVERNMENT, COMES IN THE MIDST OF SHRILL DENUNCIATIONS OF THE MORO ECONOMIC PROGRAM ON THE PART OF MANY LABOR LEADERS AT THE CATEGORY UNION LEVEL (ROME'S 2488). SCHEDA'S VIEWS MAY BE REGARDED AS EVIDENCE OF PCI DETERMINATION TO HEW CLOSELY TO THE MODERATE LINE WHICH IT REGARDS AS PREREQUISITE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. VOLPE

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